

MEMORANDUM

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NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

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Reviews
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July 17, 1970

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

FROM: Jeanne W. Davis *WD*

SUBJECT: Friday Morning Staff Meeting, July 17, 9:00 A. M.

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE
INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

Informing India of Pakistan Arms Decision

Dr. Kissinger instructed Hal Saunders to delay any action on the Pakistan arms issue until he had been consulted. He wished to wait to see what action India takes regarding recognition of Hanoi.

Mr. Saunders said he had put a hold on the package. He added, however, that it may be weeks before the Indians move on Hanoi. They are presenting a paper to the Cabinet for consideration which may take some time. He noted some domestic pressure in the form of a letter from Senator Fulbright pressing for a briefing for the Congress. We cannot brief the Congress before we have briefed the Indians because of the likelihood of a leak.

Dr. Kissinger asked for a recommendation as to when to move.

Mr. Saunders said we had asked for Ambassador Keating's views and he wished to await a response.

Announcement of Ambassador Murphy's POW Role

Mr. Holdridge said Defense had called about announcement of the appointment of Ambassador Murphy as the President's special representative on the POW issue.

Dr. Kissinger said he didn't care when the announcement was made and, indeed, thought it had already been announced.

General Haig said it had not been announced, but Ambassador Murphy has had some preliminary discussions during his FIAB trip. He thought it could be announced next week.

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Dr. Kissinger agreed on next week.

Air Mission to Israel

Dr. Kissinger asked Mr. Saunders about the reported US air mission to Israel.

Mr. Saunders replied that it was not an air mission, but an orientation trip by the new Deputy CINCSStrike to his area. He said it had been handled in a low key, but the Embassy had been quiet enough to cause speculation and the Israelis, of course, had made a big splash.

Dr. Kissinger asked why the trip had been made now.

Mr. Saunders replied that the officer had been visiting in his area. In answer to Dr. Kissinger's question, he said he had also been in Jordan. He found it ironic that, while our military commander is visiting the area, the Defense Department is refusing to contribute to a consideration of possible military moves in the area in line with the requirements laid on at last week's Special Review Group meeting on the Middle East. He explained that Defense has refused to participate in developing the paper requested. Their representative (Bob Pranger) takes the position that Defense does not understand the objectives and they cannot put anything on paper until the Secretary of Defense has considered the problem. Mr. Saunders said they have a State Department paper on the subject.

Dr. Kissinger said we should ignore Defense and go ahead with what we have. He asked General Haig to deal with Pranger.

Mr. Saunders said he assumed Pranger was acting on instructions from above.

Vice President's Meeting with Guatemalan President Arana

Dr. Kissinger asked why all the fuss about the Vice President's June meeting with the then Guatemalan President-Elect.

Mr. Vaky said the June 10 meeting had been set up by Kent Crane at the request of a mutual friend. State had been informed and Charley Meyer had participated. It had been an innocuous meeting but it had been agreed that no one would talk about it. The AP had a line on the meeting and State and Vaky had advised confirming that the meeting had taken place. Crane had demurred. Our Ambassador in Guatemala had been instructed to tell the Guatemalans of the leak.

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Dr. Kissinger asked what is wrong with the Vice President meeting with the President-elect of Guatemala. What is the problem?

Mr. Vaky replied there was nothing wrong with the meeting, but Arana's reaction to the leak had been paranoic.

Dr. Kissinger asked what State was running from.

Mr. Vaky explained they were not running. They wanted to confirm the meeting had taken place and Meyer had participated. It was the Vice President and his staff who had held off. He (Vaky) strongly recommended saying what was true: i. e., a mutual friend had set up a brief, informal, courtesy meeting with the Vice President for then President-elect Arana who was en route to Europe. State had fought the meeting in the first place, but had participated and had agreed to confirm truthfully.

Dr. Kissinger asked who had talked.

Mr. Vaky thought someone in the Vice President's office.

Dr. Kissinger thought we should tell the truth. It made no difference whether State had set up the meeting or anyone else. If someone says State set up the meeting and they deny it, we will give the impression there was something wrong with the meeting.

Mr. Vaky said State was not the problem. We had to have a press line for this morning if asked about the press stories, and he was advising that we tell the truth.

Dr. Kissinger reiterated that State should not issue a denial on who set up the meeting. The meeting took place and the Assistant Secretary sat in.

Mr. Vaky repeated that State was not the problem. He would get an agreed line with Crane. He thought we had no choice but to confirm. It was Arana and Ambassador Davis who had suggested denial.

Dr. Kissinger said the immediate press play would die down. He wanted to be sure we did not create the impression that there was something wrong with the meeting.

Mr. Vaky said this was not the problem. He could not explain the irrational Guatemalan attitude.

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Dr. Kissinger said the Vice President had told him someone had leaked the talking points which had been prepared for him.

High-Ranking Visitors to UNGA

Dr. Kissinger asked when he would receive the list of Heads of State or Government who were coming to the US in connection with the UNGA.

Mr. Wright said we had received an Under Secretaries Committee paper on the South African arms embargo. They are trying to get agency comments on it and get it over this weekend.

Rhodesian Chrome

Dr. Kissinger asked about the position on Rhodesian chrome.

Mr. Wright said that too was ready. State was recommending no change in present policy. He had done a memorandum for Dr. Kissinger's signature to the President.

Dr. Kissinger asked why it had taken State so long to develop a position.

Mr. Wright acknowledged that we had had the paper, including Secretary Rogers' recommendations, since April 20.

Col. Kennedy reminded Dr. Kissinger that he had received the paper which had contained only excerpts of agency views rather than their full statements. The various agencies had felt the excerpts were inadequate and we had asked them to submit full statements of their positions in writing. They had done so, and the package which Mr. Wright had put together was the result.

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